

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

I find it to be more than frightening that the body whom governs what is broadcast over OUR airwaves is giving serious consideration to lifting the few caps on media ownership that still remain. Since the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was passed, radio has been proliferated with such "warehousing of spectrum" as voice-tracking, completely syndicated radio stations, elimination of local news teams, corporately controlled playlists, and a handful of people having authority to dictate what the American people are able to hear. With the discussion of TV ownership caps being lifted, we also hear talks of news gathering organizations merging. These are the same news teams that continue to see increasing pressure from corporate management and sales staffs to eliminate more and more "substance" from their newscasts in order to make the news more entertaining and "accessible" to a greater number of people. With the direction that we are currently moving in, the number of voices on!

American airwaves will continue to diminish at an even more alarming rate. Under-represented minorities will face an even more difficult challenge to find programming that speaks to them as there will be fewer job opportunities in media. The chances of minorities to gain access to the airwaves will be even more reduced when there are fewer jobs available. And with fewer jobs available, we will see fewer people producing the media that we see, hear, and read every day. More viewpoints will be lost and our media will become even less democratic than it is now. THE FCC CONTROLS AMERICAN AIRWAVES AND SUPPOSEDLY FUNCTIONS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. ELIMINATING MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEDIA BY ALLOWING FURTHER CONSOLIDATION DOES NOT SERVE THE PUBLIC. IT SOLELY LINES THE POCKETS OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND LARGE CORPORATIONS THAT ALREADY CONTROL THE AIRWAVES. WE NEED MORE REGULATION, NOT LESS, TO ENSURE THAT MORE VIEWPOINTS ARE SEEN BY ALL AMERICANS. TO ALLOW MORE CONSOLIDATION IS TO GO AGAINST EVERY FIB! ER OF THE AMERICAN IDEAL OF DEMOCRACY. IT IS TO PUT THE POWER INTO THE HANDS OF THE UPPER CLASS ELITE WHO CONTROL THE MEDIA. Please, do not take away what little diversity is left in our media. The proposal currently before the commission only serves to harm individual Americans and bolster corporate profits. Radio and Television are still the primary sources of information for average Americans -- not the internet. Arguments being made to the contrary are not cogent. Serve the public interest, serve the public interest, serve the public interest. Thank you.